1. Product/Infrastructure Development of Destinations/Circuits

2. Assistance to Large Revenue Generating Projects.

3. Information Technology

4. Fairs/Festival and Events

Proposals which are complete in all respect as per guidelines are processed on *inter-se* priority basis and funds are released subject to availability under the respective head of accounts.

The details of projects sanctioned to the Government of Assam during the 11th five year plan are given in the Statement.

Statement

Projects sanctioned to the State of Assam during the 11th five year plan

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl.No.	Name of the Project	Amount Sanctioned
2007-08		
1	Development of Barak Valley and Two Hill district in Southern Assam.	605.42
2	Development of Tourist Circuit (Western Assam Circuit) Dhubari-Mahamaya-Barpeta-hajo	497.94
3	Setting up of a Sound & Light show at Talatal ghar, in Shibasagar district	158.54
4	Celebration of Dehing Patkai Festival, 2007	5.00
5	Celebration of Tea Tourism Festival, 2007	5.00
	TOTAL	1271.90
2008-09		
1	Development of Tourist Circuit- Kaliabor-Jakhalabandha - Nagaon	669.40
2	Development of Buddhist Tourist Circuit in Assam	652.57
3	Dev. Of Tourist Circuit -Dibru Saikhowa National Park-Makum-Margherita-Digboi, Assam	332.15
4	Dev. of Tourist Circuit Kaziranga - Sivasagar- Majuli-Jorhat (East Assam Circuit)	453.49
	TOTAL	2107.61
	GRAND TOTAL	3379.51

Cruise Tourism

681. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India with its vast coastline, which is still highly untapped, could emerge as a potential hub for cruise tourism; and

(b) if so, the steps Government has taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (KUMARI SELJA): (a) and (b) There is tremendous potential for Cruise Tourism in the country. Accordingly, the Cruise Shipping Policy of Ministry of Shipping has been approved. The following projects have been sanctioned by the Ministry of Tourism for development of Cruise Tourism in 2008-09.

1. Development of tourism infrastructure at Cochin Port, Kerala for Rs. 1450.00 lakh to Cochin Port Trust, Kochi.

2. Purchase of Ferries in Tamil Nadu for Rs,52.70 lakh to Poompuhar Shipping Corporation Ltd., Chennai.

The Cochin Port was also one of the eleven ports in the world which hosted the Volvo Ocean Race from 3rd to 13th December, 2008.

Incredible India Campaign

682. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI:

DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the status of foreign tourist arrivals in India during past three years and in 2009 till date;

(b) whether it has declined;

(c) the status of 'Incredible India' campaign;

(d) the action plan of Government to give a boost to medical tourism in the country; and

(e) the present status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI SULTAN AHMED): (a) and (b) The number of foreign tourist arrivals (FTAs) in India and the growth rates over the corresponding period of previous year during 2006, 2007, 2008 and January-June 2009, are given below:

Period	FTAs (in Million)	Growth over previous year
2006	4.45	13.5%
2007	5.08	14.3%
2008*	5.37	5.6%
2009* January-June	2.47	-9.3%

*Provisional

While the number of FTAs during 2006, 2007 and 2008 show a rising trend, during the period January-June 2009 there has been a decline. However, a positive growth rate of 0.2% in FTAs was observed in June, 2009 over June, 2008.

(c) The Incredible India Campaign is an ongoing activity in the print and electronic media and on the internet, in key source markets overseas for promoting India as a preferred tourist destination.